

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06844 151015Z

47

ACTION EA-10

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS

SUBJECT: ROKG WARNS UNIVERSITIES TO CONTROL STUDENTS; NDP
RESPONDS

REF A. SEOUL 6783 B. SEOUL 6733

1. ON OCTOBER 14, MINISTER OF EDUCATION YU KI-CHUN
WARNED AUDIENCE OF 72 UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS AND DEANS
IN "CLOSED-DOOR" MEETING THAT MINISTRY WOULD TAKE
ACTION AGAINST UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATIONS IF IT
FOUND THEM INCAPABLE OF KEEPING ORDER ON CAMPUS.
HE INDICATED STUDENTS SHOULD BE STERNLY PUNISHED IF
THEY CONTINUE TO "SHATTER" THIS ORDER.

2. MINISTER NOTED THAT SCHOOLS SHOULD RESPECT AND
HONOR THEIR ACADEMIC AND CAMPUS FREEDOM WITHIN THE
FRAMEWORK OF LAW. "IF ACADEMIC CLIMATE ON CAMPUS
IS DESTROYED, GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER (UNIVERSITY)
AUTHORITIES AS INCOMPETENT IN MANAGING SCHOOL."
HE SAID THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD THEN "ACT ACCORDINGLY."

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, MINISTRY SOURCES
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 06844 151015Z

ADDED THAT MINISTER'S WARNING INCLUDED POSSIBILITY

OF CLOSING SCHOOLS UNDER PRIVATE SCHOOL LAW.
CAONCERNING STUDENT ACTIVISM, HOME MINISTER PAK KYONG-WON
INSTRUCTED POLICE TO ARREST "ALL STUDENTS IF THEY
ORGANIZE DEMONSTRATIONS." HE INDICATED THAT THOSE
STUDENTS FOUND THROWING STONES AT RIOT POLICE WOULD
BE TURNED OVER TO SUMMARY COURTS AND THAT POLICE
WOULD TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS.
ACCORDING TO PRESS STORY, PHOTOGRAPHS WOULD GIVE
DEMONSTRATING STUDENTS "FEELING THEY WOULD BE
INVESTIGATED LATER."

4. FOREGOING STATEMENTS WERE MADE IN WAKE OF
SPREADING STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AND SCHOOL CLOSURES
(SEPTEL).

5. IN RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS, IN
PARTICULAR THAT FROM EDUCATION MINISTRY, NDP
OPPOSITION PARTY SPOKESMAN CALLED ON GOVERNMENT ON
OCTOBER 15 "TO STOP SUPPRESSING STUDENT ACTIVITIES"
AIMED AT FREEING THOSE CONVICTED UNDER EMERGENCY
MEASURES AND "TO RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC RULE."
ACCORDING TO UPI REPORT, NDP SAID STUDENT DEMANDS
WERE UNDERSTANDABLE AND "THEIR DEMAND FOR
CONSTITUTIONAL REVISIONS AND FREEDOM OF PRESS WERE
PATRIOTICALLY MOTIVATED."
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